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DAIRY

LEGUMINOUS HAYS FOR COWS

Corn Silage is Excellent Feed, but Not a Balanced One—Legumes Furnish Protein.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

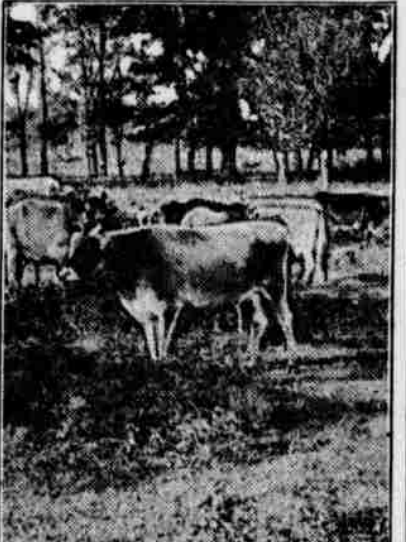
The best kinds of dry roughage for feeding dairy cows in connection with corn silage or roots are leguminous hays, such as alfalfa, red, crimson, or alsike clover, and soy bean or cow-pea hay. In the opinion of experts of the United States Department of Agriculture. While corn silage is an excellent feed, it is not a balanced one, as it does not contain sufficient protein and mineral matter to meet fully the requirements of the cow. The leguminous hays, in addition to being very palatable, tend to correct this deficiency. They are also among the best and cheapest sources of protein.

One or more of these hays can be grown on practically any farm. In addition to their value for feeding purposes, they improve the soil in which they grow. Hay from Canada field peas, sown with oats to prevent the peas from lodging, also makes an excellent roughage.

Corn stover, sorghum, etc., also find a good market through the dairy cow. This class of roughage is low in protein, however, and when it is used the grain ration must be richer in this element.

No positive rule can be laid down as to the quantity of dry roughage that should be fed, but from 6 to 12 pounds a day for each cow, in addition to silage, will be found satisfactory in most cases.

When the dry roughage is of poor quality, such as coarse, woody hay or a poor grade of cornstalks, a large portion can often be given to advantage, allowing the cow to pick out the best and using the rejected part for bedding. With this quantity of dry roughage the cow will take, according to



One of Most Economical Feeds for Dairy Cows is Pasture.

her size, from 25 to 50 pounds of silage. This may be considered as a guide for feeding, to apply when the roughage is grown on the farm. When everything has to be purchased, it is often more economical to limit the quantity of roughage fed and increase the grain ration.

RUNTY ANIMAL UNPROFITABLE

Undersized and Undeveloped Animals Usually Caused by Improper Care and Poor Feed.

Niggardly methods of feeding and caring for farm live stock are unprofitable. This is one conclusion resulting from an inquiry conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture into the causes and prevention of runtness among farm animals. Seventy-five per cent of undersized and undeveloped animals, according to a summary of more than 700 opinions advanced by live-stock owners, are due to inferior breeding, inadequate or unsuitable feed, and pests, such as parasites and insects.

The remedy is the better care of better stock, and the cost of this remedy, in the opinion of practical farmers, is much cheaper than the expense of continuing to raise undersized and slow-maturing domestic animals. "Better raise one good cow than two poor ones—a runt is nothing but expense all its life." This opinion, which is typical of many others, is from a Michigan dairyman. A thrifty New Englander sums up sentiment on this topic with the remark, "I find I cannot cheat the animal without cheating myself."

HIGH-PRODUCING DAIRY COWS

To Increase Productiveness of Herd It Is Necessary to Begin With Individuals.

Increasing the productiveness of a dairy herd through selection must begin with the individual as a unit. Cows with the best performance records are mated to a bull backed by a line of high-producing ancestors. Even this will not guarantee offspring equal to their parents in productiveness, since the law of chance operates to make results uncertain. However, the average will be as good as their parents' and some will exceed their dam's record. The best producers are further bred for further improvement.

Vest Pocket Essays

By GEORGE FITCH
Author of "At Good Old Siwash"

WILD OATS.

There are two kinds of agriculturalists. One kind sows tame oats in the country fields and the other sows wild oats on the Great White Ways.

Tame oats are sown in the spring, but wild oats are sown all the year round. Tame oats are sown between daybreak and sunset, but the most successful wild oat agriculturalists start putting in the crop about midnight and ride home with the milkman in the morning. Tame oats will not grow without rain, but if there is anything that isn't necessary in raising a crop of wild oats it is water—except in minute quantities as a chaser.

The young man who has a large quantity of wild oats to put in usually dresses for the job very carefully. He wears all the clothes his tailor will trust him for. And yet sowing wild oats is infinitely harder on clothes than the other job. Night after night, the sower will come home with his plug hat mashed down over his ears and one tail of his dress coat unaccounted for. This proves that the wild oats farmer is a fool. He should swathe himself in blue overalls and wear a two-acre straw-hat which does not soil easily. People would send for the insanity commission if a farmer were discovered putting in tame oats in a plug hat and Prince Albert. But said plug hat would last seven years longer in a tame oat field than it usually does in the wild oats business.

The bona fide farmer puts in all his oats in a few days, but the happy young man with the soft pompadour hair and the pellet of gray matter under his left ear sows wild oats with industry for as much as ten years at a time, frequently working twenty-four hours a day at the

job. Wild oats were formerly sown by hand, but machinery is getting into the field of course and at present most of them are sown by automobile. An earnest toiler in a fast automobile with a few assistants can sow enough wild oats in one evening to reap about four decades of unavailing regrets spotted with divorce.



Wild oats were formerly sown by hand, but machinery is getting into the field of course.

suits, personal injury damages and red-nosed gloom.

The cost of sowing wild oats depends on the sower. It usually takes all he has and the crop can't be marketed for seven cents. Still the wild oats sower is very scornful of the plain and freckled farmer and laughs loudly at his foolishness in sticking to the unilluminated style of agriculture. It is quite safe to do anything at which the wild oat sower laughs loudly.

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FARM MARKETS BAROMETER

←where will she go next?

THAT'S the question that is burning every farmer's ears. What good will it do you to hold your crop if your neighbor dumps his? There is no use working in the dark, trying to put two and two together from the gossip and guessing you hear all around.

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